



EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL DUAL LANGUAGE MAGNET

Bilingual, bi-literate, bi-cultural.

800 E. Schuster Avenue El Paso, TX 79902 www.episd.org

Thank you for your interest in the El Paso High School Dual Language Magnet Program. This packet contains an overview of the program as well as information on submitting an application packet. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Dual Language Magnet Coordinator, Cecilia Phillips, at cyphilli@episd.org or (915) 496-8300 ext. 2109.

Required Application Documents

The following application documents are required to be considered for conditional acceptance:

- Completed Dual Language Magnet Application (enclosed)
- A letter of recommendation from a current Teacher, Counselor or Administrator
- Written statement of interest
- Copies of most recent report cards indicating three semesters of grades and attendance
- Most recent Electric, Gas or Water bill (with parent/guardian's name) for proof of residency

Conditional Acceptance

Students are conditionally accepted to the program based on the following qualifications:

- Three semester cumulative grade point average of 80% or better (to include 2011 fall semester)
- Three semester attendance rate of 90% or better (to include 2011 fall semester)
- Must reside within EPISD attendance zone (EPISD will provide transportation for students attending a magnet outside of their EPISD attendance zone)

Application Deadline

- **April 20, 2012**
- **Applications received after the deadline will be placed on a waiting list. Late applications will be processed first come first served, based on available space.**

Final Acceptance

Final acceptance will be contingent upon receipt and/or confirmation of the following:

- **Final 2011-2012 transcript indicating and overall GPA of 80%**
- Final 2011-2012 attendance report indicating an attendance rate of 90%
- Verification of coursework for which high school credit was received
- Commitment to Attend Contract (to be sent upon being conditionally accepted)
- Completed 9th grade course request (to be sent upon being conditionally accepted)
- Completed Spanish Language Survey (to be sent upon being conditionally accepted)



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About the Program

Mission: The Mission of the El Paso High School Dual Language Magnet Program is to be the district leader in producing exemplary graduates through creative educational experiences via a bicultural, bi-literate, bilingual environment.

History: The El Paso Independent School District's first dual language program was established at Mesita Elementary School back in the late 1990's. The program came to be known as "*Connecting Worlds – Mundos Unidos*" (Dual Language Program). In the early 2003, Mesita was awarded the multi-million dollar Grant for purpose of expanding the dual language program. Through this grant, the El Paso High School Dual Language Magnet program was established, and graduated its first cohort in the spring of 2007.

50/50 Model: The 50/50 model is based on presenting course material and lessons 50% of the time in English and 50% of the time in Spanish. Lessons are not merely translated, but alternate and progress sequentially with the curriculum. This model also strives to create a 50/50 balance of native English and native Spanish speaking students per class. This creates the unique opportunity for student-led co-learning a student's secondary language. Students graduate from the program with the lingual and bi-literate skills needed in today's competitive global society.

Curriculum: The Dual Language course curriculum consists of 7 academic core courses (which includes 3 credits of Spanish), and 2-4 upper level elective courses. Students may start their studies of a 3rd language as early as their sophomore year. Freshman and sophomores must be enrolled in at least two dual language courses to maintain active status*. Juniors and seniors must be enrolled in at least one dual language course.

Spanish Requirements: Dual Language students are required to earn 3 foreign language credits in Spanish. It is strongly recommended that credits be earned by completing these courses during their first three years at El Paso High School. Students also have the option of testing out of a course and earning credit through Credit-by-Exam. The disadvantage for native English speakers is losing hours of exposure and use of speaking Spanish on a daily basis. The advantage in testing out of a course is that saves you a semester(s) of seat time. Additional information about credit by exam is available through high school counselors.

Distinguish Achievement Program (DAP): Students accepted into the Dual Language Magnet program qualify to graduate under the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) as set forth by the Texas Education Agency. Under DAP, students must earn 26 credits that includes three credits of foreign language (same foreign language for all three credits) and achieve any combination of four specific advanced measures. Additional information is available through high school counselors.

Applications accepted through: April 20



Program Standards and Academic Probation

Academic Standards: students accepted to the program must maintain the following standards:

- Maintain an 80% overall average
- Maintain a 90% attendance rate
- Comply with the District Code of Conduct
- Earn at least 3 credits of Spanish
- Maintain Active Status*

Failure to maintain program standards every 9 weeks may result in the student being placed on academic probation.

Active* and Inactive Status: Dual Language freshman and sophomores are required to be enrolled in at least two dual language courses to be considered an “active” magnet student. Juniors and seniors are required to be enrolled in at least 1 dual language course. Study of a third language qualifies as a Dual Language course only after the requirement of 3 Spanish credits is met.

Inactive students do not qualify to participate in special and/or extra Dual Language program-related activities such as presentations, field trips, etc.

Academic Probation: Once a magnet student is identified in violation of one or more program standards, he/she is placed on academic probation and made “inactive” for a period of 9 weeks. The student will have those 9 weeks to come back into compliance. If after 9 weeks, a student fails to meet the program’s academic standards once again, the process to exit the student from the program will begin.

Exit Process: The student will be exited from the program and enrolled in non-dual language classes at the change of the semester and/or new school year following the failed probationary period. If a magnet student is on an academic pupil transfer and fails to come into compliance, ***their transfer status will be denied the following school year, and will have to return to their home campus as per district policy.*** A parent may appeal the exit process directly to the Principal, at which time he/she will rule in favor of one of the following options:

- Accept the appeal and make the student “active” in the program
- Grant another 9 week probationary period
- Modify the student’s dual language curriculum as needed
- Deny the appeal and continue with the exit process

If the Principal denies the appeal, the parent may appeal again to the District’s Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Division.

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Application

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address: _____
No. and Street City State Zip

Student E-Mail: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ (_____) _____
Home Mobile

Birth Date: _____ Current School: _____ EPISD ID # _____
Month/Day/Year

If your current school is not an EPISD school, have you ever been enrolled in an EPISD School? _____

If yes, please list last EPISD School attended: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Student lives with: Mother ____ Father ____ Both ____ Guardian ____

Mother or Guardian:

Father or Guardian:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

As part of the application process, authorized personnel may research information such as attendance and disciplinary records for the purpose of confirming magnet program requirements.

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Spanish Language and Course Work Audit

Indicate by circling the appropriate response:

Native language: Spanish English Other: _____

Spanish speaking skill level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Spanish reading skill level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Spanish writing skill level: Beginner Intermediate Advanced

I am currently enrolled in the following courses for which I will receive High School credit:

Algebra I Spanish I Other: _____

I intend on testing Credit-by-Exam for the following courses by the end of my 8th grade year:

Spanish 1a/b Spanish 2a Spanish 2b AP Spanish Language

Statement of Interest

In the space allotted below, or on a separate document to be attached, please write a brief statement (Spanish preferred) as to why you wish to be considered for the El Paso High School Dual Language Magnet Program.

Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Activities

In the space allotted below, list all co- and extra-curricular activities that you are currently involved in, or have participated with in the past:

Letter of Recommendation

Attach a letter of recommendation from a current Teacher, Counselor or Administrator from your current school.

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Student and Parent Commitment

We understand that students apply to the Dual Language Magnet Program at El Paso High School as an optional program because of the unique focus of the program. We recognize that permission to attend is a **privilege and not a right**. We recognize that program standards and parental role in the program may be higher than those required by other schools in the District. We recognize that compliance with these is a requisite part of attendance and continued enrollment in Dual Language Program. We understand that admission to the Dual Language Program is competitive and limited. Students are admitted without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, or handicap. Our signatures indicate that we agree to support and adhere to the program standards and parental role now in existence and those that may be established in the future.

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Rules of the University Interscholastic League as Pertaining to Athletics

As outlined in Section 440(B)(2)(B) of the University of Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules: Students are eligible in athletics for the first year they have the opportunity to transfer to a Magnet School. If a student leaves the Magnet School and returns to the school of his / her parent's residence, the student is **not** eligible for varsity athletic competitions for at least one year from the date of enrollment in the home school. Student and parent / guardian signatures indicate that the parties understand and agree to support and adhere to the rules and regulations now in existence and to those that may be established in the future.

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

The El Paso ISD does not discriminate in its educational programs or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military status, or on any other basis prohibited by law. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, IX and 504 may be referred to the district compliance officer, Vince Sheffield, at 881-2619; 504 inquiries regarding students may be referred to Cecilia Whiteman at 881-2527.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de El Paso no discrimina en los programas de educación o en prácticas de empleo usando el criterio de raza, color, religión, sexo, origen nacional, edad, incapacidad, estado militar, u otra practica prohibida por la ley. Preguntas acerca de la aplicación de título VI, VII o IX, y la Sección 504 pueden ser referidas al oficial del distrito, Vince Sheffield, al 881-2619; preguntas sobre estudiantes en 504 pueden ser referidos a Cecilia Whiteman, al 881-2527.

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